

CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A support assembly to secure a roof bar, having a longitudinal mounting portion via which articles are secured to the bar, to a vehicle roof mounting so that in use the bar extends generally transversely across a vehicle, said assembly including:

a base to which the bar is to be secured;

a user manipulated part mounted in the base, said user manipulated part including a threaded portion, a securing member connected to said threaded portion, an eyelet opening in said securing member for engaging said vehicle roof mounting, and a threaded shaft to engage said threaded portion;

a movable cover mounted on the base at a pivot to inhibit access to said user manipulated part and longitudinal mounting portion wherein the pivot is in a first position, the pivot being moveable relative to the base to a second position while the cover remains mounted to the base wherein the longitudinal mount portion is exposed, and the cover being releasable for movement relative to the base to expose said user manipulated part and longitudinal mounting portion;

a lock operatively associated with the base and cover to secure the cover to said base to inhibit access to said user manipulated part and longitudinal mounting portion, and operable to release the cover for the movement relative to said base; and

wherein said securing member is tensioned to inhibit repositioning of the bar relative to the vehicle.

2. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said cover is attached to said base.

3. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 2, wherein said movement of said cover includes pivoting movement about an axis and movement along a predetermined path.

4. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 3, wherein said axis is generally horizontal when said assembly is secured to said vehicle.
5. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 4, wherein said path is located generally in a vertical plane when said assembly is secured to the vehicle.
6. (Original) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said movement is provided by projections on said cover slidably engaged in tracks in said base.
7. (Original) The support assembly of claim 1 wherein, said lock includes a lock cylinder mounted in said cover and operable to engage said base.
8. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said base has a cavity via which the user has access to said user manipulated part, with said cover being movable relative to said base to close said cavity to inhibit said access.
9. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein angular movement of said threaded shaft causes the assembly to be secured or released with respect to the vehicle, said threaded shaft being slidably supported in said base for angular movement about a longitudinal axis of said threaded_shaft.
10. (Original) The support assembly of claim 9, wherein said longitudinal axis is generally vertically extending when said assembly is mounted on the vehicle.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said securing member is a strap assembly including a strap body to extend between the base and vehicle roof_mounting.
13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 7, wherein said lock cylinder is key operable and includes a projection that is angularly movable between a first position engaged with said base to retain the cover in a position inhibiting access to said user manipulated part, and a second position releasing the cover with respect to the base.

15. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 1 further including a mounting adaptor that is to be secured to the vehicle roof mounting, and wherein said user manipulated part threadably engages said mounting adaptor and is tensioned to secure the assembly to the vehicle.

16. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 1 wherein said securing member is accessible only when said cover is positioned to provide access thereto.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The support assembly of claim 1 further comprising a roof bar, and wherein said mounting portion includes at least one longitudinal flange.

19. (Currently Amended) A support assembly to secure a roof bar to a vehicle, said assembly comprising:

a base capable of securing the roof bar to the vehicle roof;

a track located on the base; ~~and~~

a cover pivotably mounted on the base at a pivot point, wherein the pivot point is capable of sliding along the track from a first position to a second position and the cover is capable of pivoting to a first cover position and a second cover position; and

a securing member coupled to the base, the securing member capable of securing the base to the vehicle roof, wherein the securing member is inhibited from being unsecured from the vehicle roof when the cover is in the first and second cover positions.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 19 further comprising a lock operatively associated with the base and cover to secure the cover to the base and operable to release the cover for sliding along the track.

22. (Currently Amended) A support assembly to secure a roof bar to a vehicle roof, having a longitudinal mounting portion via which articles are secured to the bar, said assembly comprising:

a base capable of securing the roof bar to the vehicle roof;

a securing member coupled to the base, the securing member capable of securing the base to the vehicle roof;

a cover mounted on the base at a pivot, wherein the pivot is moveable relative to the base from a first position to a second position while the cover remains mounted to the base; ~~and~~

wherein in the first position articles are prevented from being secured to the bar and the securing member is inhibited from being unsecured from the vehicle roof; and

wherein in the second position articles are capable of being secured to the bar and the securing member is inhibited from being unsecured from the vehicle roof.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 22 wherein the pivot is slidable relative to the base from the first position to the second position.

25. (Previously Presented) The support assembly of claim 24 further comprising a track located on a first and second side of the base, the pivot capable of sliding along the track to move from the first position to the second position.

26. (New) The support assembly of claim 19, wherein the first cover position is an open position and the second cover position is a closed position.